

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - MAY 29

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE
GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
USIA FOR IBS,IEE,IPS
USINFO FOR IOP/M

1. BILATERAL.

(A) PRAVDA FRONTPAGES REPORT OF PODGORNYY MEETING WITH U.S. GOVERNORS DELEGATION ON MAY 28. REPORT IS SHORT ON SUBSTANCE BUT SAYS THAT PODGORNYY SPOKE OUT FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS ON BASIS PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH U.S. IZVESTIYA REPORTS ON GOVERNORS' STAY IN LENINGRAD AND NOTES MEETING OF EILBERG CODEL WITH SUPREME SOVIET COUNCIL OF THE UNION CHAIRMAN SHITIKOV.

(B) IN LENGTHY SIGNED REPORT FROM NEW YORK TITLED "THINKING OF THE FUTURE" YULIAN SEMYENOV WRITES IN PRAVDA ON HIS RETURN TO U.S. AFTER SEVEN YEARS ABSENCE. SAYS MUCH HAS CHANGED: U.S. SOLDIERS NO LONGER IN VIETNAM ("NOW FLAG OF VICTORY AND FREEDOM FLIES OVER DA NANG AND SAIGON"); CIA NOW UNMASKED; PRESS NO LONGER FULL OF ANTI-SOVIET ATTACKS, THOUGH SOME STILL REMAIN. BULK OF ARTICLE CONCERNS SEMYENOV CONVERSATIONS WITH PROMINENT AMERICANS ON MEMORIES OF WARTIME COOPERATION, WITH EMPHASIS AT SAME TIME ON PRESENT COOPERATION SUCH AS APOLLO-SOYUZ. SEMYENOV GOES FURTHER THAN HAS BEEN USUAL IN ACKNOWLEDGING U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO WAR EFFORT. ALSO SAYS THAT USSR HAS PROPOSED "REAL DISARMAMENT" AND NOW UP TO U.S. TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS.

(C) PRAVDA REPORTS REASONABLY FACTUALLY PRESIDENT'S TV MESSAGE ON ENERGY QUESTION, NOTING ONLY THAT U.S. PRESS COMMENTING THAT ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS MET CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS. PRAVDA REPORTS, IN BOX RESERVED FOR ATTACKS ON WESTERN WAY OF LIFE, ON LOS ANGELES FIRM WHICH ALLEGEDLY BUYS AND SELLS CHILDREN. COMMENT IS "BUSINESS IS BUSINESS."

2. NATO. CENTRAL PRESS HAS HEAVY COVERAGE ON NATO
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SUMMIT. LENGTHY COMMENTARY IN IZVESTIYA (V. OSIPOV) SAYS THAT NATO MEETING WAS ELEVATED TO SUMMIT LEVEL AS RESULT OF RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA. AIM OF MEETING, OSIPOV SAYS, IS TO LESSEN SHOCK OF THOSE EVENTS AND SOFTEN AS FAR AS POSSIBLE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE TOWARD WASHINGTON. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED, OSIPOV WRITES, ARE "REPAIR OF SOUTHERN FLANK" INCLUDING PORTUGUESE QUESTION; FURTHER INCREASE IN MILITARY

EFFORTS OF NATO STATES; COORDINATION OF OIL/ENERGY POSITIONS; MIDDLE EAST; AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS. OSIPOV SAYS CRISIS IN CONFIDENCE TOWARD U.S. NOT EASILY REMOVED, CITING LE MONDE REPORT THAT U.S. IN RECENT YEARS HAS SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT ITS MORAL POSITION AS LEADER OF WEST AS RESULT OF ACTIVITIES IN INDOCHINA, CHILE, AND ELSEWHERE. OSIPOV SAYS FURTHER THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS DO NOT SHARE U.S. VIEWS ON "HARSH APPROACH" TO ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS QUESTIONS NOR ON INCLUSION OF SPAIN AND SOUTH AFRICA IN NATO EFFORTS. OSIPOV CRITICIZES DEFENSE PLANNING COUNCIL DECISIONS ON INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING AND WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION, AND QUOTES AP THAT SUCH DECISIONS CAN BE EASILY UNDERCUT BY POLITICAL EVENTS SUCH AS PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. PRAVDA IN REPORT FROM BRUSSELS MAKES MANY OF SAME POINTS AS DOES OSIPOV, BUT CONTENDS THAT MAIN SUBJECT OF MEETING WILL BE COORDINATION OF POSITIONS ON CSCE. PRAVDA REPORT ALSO DWELLS ON "FUTHER SHARPENING OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC CONTRADICTIONS" BETWEEN U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE. IN SEPARATE SIGNED COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA, IGOR BIRYUKOV ATTACHES "NATO MANEUVERS" ON BRITISH ISLES IN WHICH U.S. AND BRITISH TROOPS ALLEGEDLY PRACTISING INTERVENTION AGAINST OIL PRODUCING STATES. BIRYUKOV SAYS THESE WAS GAMES ARE OPEN ATTEMPT AT BLACKMAIL AND DEMONSTRATION OF FORCE AGAINST INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATES.

3. PORTUGAL. IZVESTIYA REPORTS END OF EXTRAORDINARY PLENUM OF AFM AND APPROVAL AT PLENUM OF FORMATION OF "WORKING GROUPS" TO EXAMINE PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING CONTACT BETWEEN MASSES AND AFM. CITING LOCAL PAPER SECULO (SEKULU - PHONETIC), REPORT SAYS SUCH MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT REMOVAL OF EXISTING MASS UNCLASSIFIED

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ORGANIZATIONS (I.E., PARTIES). REPORT SAYS THAT MEWLY CONFIRMED SUPPORT FOR GONCALVES BY PLENUM "GIVES HIM GREEN LIGHT IN CASE BECOMES NECESSARY TO CHANGE COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT." AGAIN CITING LOCAL PRESS, IZVESTIYA EMPHASIZES THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH LEVYING OF CRITICISM ON SOCIALIST PARTY. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS THAT COSTA GOMES SAID AT PLENUM THAT DEMAGOGIC PRETENSIONS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY ARE BEING USED BY PORTUGUESE AND INTERNATIONAL REACTIONARY FORCES. NO REPORT IS MADE IN SOVIET PRESS ON ARRIVAL OF NATO WARSHIPS IN LISBON OR OF SOCIALIST PARTICIPATION IN CABINET MEETING ON ANGOLA.

4. MIDDLE EAST.

(A) IZVESTIYA CARRIES A LENGTHY ANALYTICAL ARTICLE

"THE MIDDLE EAST; THE PATH TO A JUST PEACE" BY
DR. IGOR BELYAYEV. BELYAYEV CHARACTERIZES ISRAEL'S
REFUSAL TO TREAT WITH THE PLO AND TO ACCEPT A
SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AS THE MAIN OBSTACLE
TO PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. HE CHARACTERIZES
STEP-BY-STEP AS AN UNWORKABLE APPROACH AND SAYS THAT
ALTHOUGH IN SOME ARAB CAPITALS THE U.S. IS STILL
CONSIDERED THE "KEY TO PEACE", EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN
THAT ONE COUNTRY CANNOT SOLVE THE FATES OF COUNTIRES
AND PEOPLES. MOREOVER, HE CLAIMS, CERTAIN CIRCLES IN
TH U.S. -- AFTER THE LOSS OF SOUTH VIETNAM -- HAVE
NO INTENTION OF PRESSURING ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY
VIEW IT AS A MEANS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN
THE ME. BELYAYEV CONCLUDES THAT THE PATH TO A
SETTLEMENT APPEARS LONG AND TORTUOUS, BUT THE RENEWAL
OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH CAREFUL PREPARATION AND
THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WILL MAKE POSSIBLE
DISCUSSION OF THE ENTIRE COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS. NO
MENTION IS MADE OF GROMYKO'S RECENT MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY.

(B) CENTRAL PRESS ALSO CARRIES SEVERAL SHORT REPORTS
ON ME DEVELOPMENTS. PRAVDA ANNOUNCES THE UN'S EXTENSION
OF UNDOF AND THE COMPLETION OF WORK ON CLEARING THE
SUEZ CANAL. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS THE ARRIVAL MAY 28 OF
AN IRAQI BAATH PARTY DELEGATION FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH
THE CPSU ON IDEOLOGICAL WORK, AND HAS AN ACCOUNT OF
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SOMALI DEFENSE MINISTER SAMATAR'S MEETING WITH PONOMAREV.
STOESSEL

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